

To: Adams, Bill[Adams.Bill@epa.gov]
From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 6:16:17 PM
Subject: Re: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Thanks Bill,

I think Ken Marcy was heading up an effort in Region 10 to identify high risk dams in your region in response to inquiries from the Mt. Polly dam failure. DO you know what the numbers came out of that effort? And yes the finger pointing has just begun but we are not really an active discovery program.

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Adams, Bill
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 2:08 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid
Subject: RE: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Shahid, We are certainly thinking about this for CDA and I can tell you that we have worked to identify all the abandoned mines in the CDA Basin and monitored the water quality of most. Other than Bunker Hill mine we don't find highly acidic mine discharge although metals are typically elevated in most cases. I have asked our team to brush up on our contingencies should the Central Treatment Plan fail. Direct discharge of this water to the South Fork of the CDA River would be catastrophic based on the quantity and quality of water. Let me know if you think we will need to provide more specifics on any of this.

I expect the questioning and finger pointing for this incident has just begun.



Bill Adams
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From: Mahmud, Shahid
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 9:53 AM
To: Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Loften; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Loften; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorchak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt
Subject: Fw: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)
Importance: High

Do we have any numbers on the questions posed by the reporter below? I know Region 10 was doing something to respond to the Canadians to follow up on Mt. Polly but I am not sure what the other regions have. Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud
Team Leader

EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team
703-603-8789

From: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:14 PM
To: Mahmud, Shahid
Cc: Gartner, Lois; Wells, Suzanne
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

From: Cohen, Nancy
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 12:09 PM
To: Dreyfus, Melissa G.
Cc: Wells, Suzanne; Gartner, Lois
Subject: FW: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill (Deadline: TODAY)

Melissa: I want to follow the correct process on press inquiries related to the Aminas River spill but don't want to lose time either. So here's an inquiry we received from OPA. We may also get it via the EOC.

Thanks, nancy

Nancy Cohen

U.S. EPA OSWER

202.566.0171

From: Daguillard, Robert
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Faulk, Libby; McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa; Mylott, Richard; Cohen, Nancy
Subject: OSWER, R8 Action; Guardian; DDL COB; Aminas River Spill

All, I've sent this inquiry to Region 8 already, but it looks as though OSWER might want to take a look at the first two questions. Please let me know.

If we could get a response by COB Today, the reporter could run the story in tomorrow's paper. Please advise. Thanks, R.

From: Karl Mathiesen
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Daguillard, Robert
Subject: Guardian media enquiry

Hi Robert,

I'm a journalist with the Guardian writing a piece on the release from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

I have a few questions on the background of the situation. Please do your best to answer them all.

On the general state of tailings dams and mines. How many such storage facilities are there across the country? How does the EPA monitor the maintenance and condition of mines and dams that are holding contaminated water? Are abandoned mines, like Gold King, monitored?

It has been reported that the EPA has been trying to designate the area as a superfund area for some time. When was the idea first floated? Why was it unsuccessful? Does the EPA believe the spill would have occurred regardless of the lack of superfund designation? Would that have changed the way the clean up was undertaken (ie would there have been more money available and therefore less likelihood of a failure?)?

Best,

Karl

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Karl Mathiesen

London